

How the test exemption works

As of January 1, 2005, odd-model year diesel HDVs that achieve an opacity reading of 20 per cent or less on their last *Drive Clean* test, likely the one used to renew their 2004 registration, will not need a test in 2005. In 2006, even-model-year vehicles will not require a test if they achieved an opacity reading of 20 per cent or less in previous tests.

If a vehicle does not meet the 20 per cent opacity level in its qualifying year, it must still have annual tests.

The following table shows the calendar years when diesel HDVs require testing and the years when they may earn an exemption.

Calendar year	Even model years	Odd model years
2004	Test required	Test required
2005	Test required	May be exempt
2006	May be exempt	Test required
2007	Test required	May be exempt
2008	May be exempt	Test required

If your diesel HDV meets or surpasses the 20 per cent standard, the rest is easy. The test result is recorded in the provincial vehicle registration database. The next year, your vehicle licence renewal application will not contain the notation that a *Drive Clean* test is required, although you will receive an information insert on the HDV emissions program with your vehicle licence renewal information.

When you renew your registration, you should not be required to show proof of your vehicle’s low emissions. We strongly suggest, however, that you

always bring your last *Drive Clean* pass report with you to a licence issuing office, whether you need it to renew your registration or not, to assist with the vehicle registration process.

To give you an exemption, *Drive Clean* will accept a pass report issued within the 24 months prior to the registration expiry. The reason for this is that a pass is valid for 12 months. Therefore, you may have had your last registration renewal with a pass that was nearly 12 months old. Twelve months later, that pass may still qualify you for an exemption.



Resale vehicles

Ownership transfer of heavy-duty vehicles will require a *Drive Clean* pass report issued within the 12 months prior to the transaction. That report may qualify a diesel vehicle for a test exemption, if the requirements are met when it is time for the next registration renewal.

Other program details unchanged

Other details of the HDV program remain the same:

- Emissions standards and requirements for non-diesel heavy-duty vehicles in the southern Ontario smog zone are unchanged.
- Test fees will continue to be set at market rate by HDV test facilities.
- A *Drive Clean* HDV pass report is valid for 12 months from date of issue for regular licence renewal or ownership transfer. The licence expiry date of the vehicle must fall within that 12-month period.
- The age of heavy-duty vehicles to be tested is unchanged. *Drive Clean* regulations require tests for vehicles in the third calendar year after their model year. This means that, in 2004, testing begins with 2001 model vehicles and, in 2005, with 2002 model vehicles.
- For licensing heavy-duty resale vehicles, model years 2003 and earlier require testing in 2004, and model years 2004 and earlier in 2005.
- The new emissions standards will apply to large diesel motorhomes that require heavy-duty vehicle tests. Since these vehicles are only tested every two years, however, the new voluntary emissions standards will not affect them.

The Smog Patrol

Ontario’s Smog Patrol (the Vehicle Emissions Enforcement Unit of the Ministry of the Environment) will apply the new heavy-duty diesel vehicle emissions standards in its on-road enforcement activities. The standards will apply to vehicles from out-of-province, as well as those registered in Ontario.

The Smog Patrol conducts random inspections to identify and ticket grossly polluting vehicles or those with emissions control equipment that has been tampered with or removed. This includes both heavy-duty and light-duty vehicles.



Idling can be costly

Unnecessary idling by your diesel HDV harms our health and our environment. Turning off the engine whenever possible will also save fuel and reduce vehicle maintenance costs.

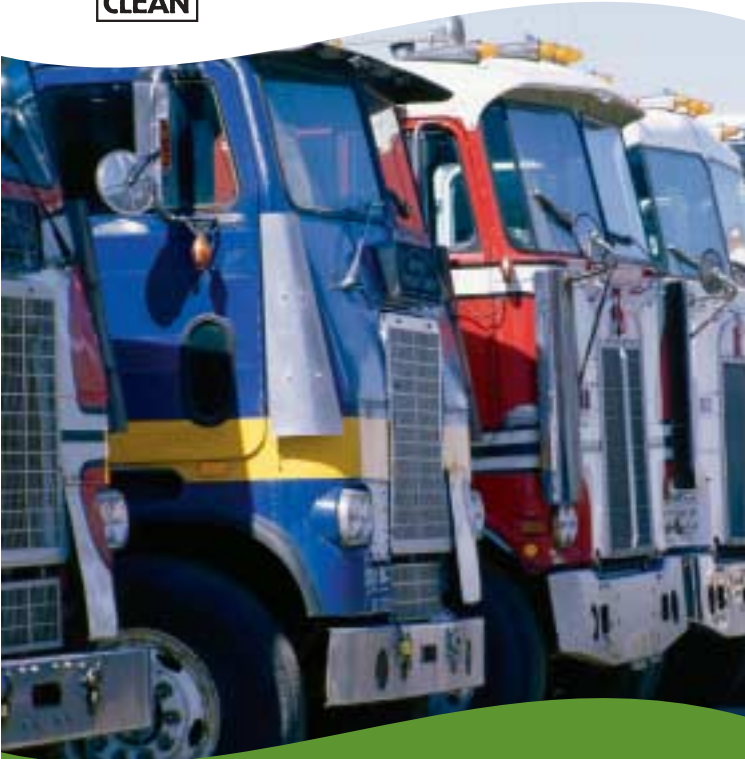
An idling diesel engine is estimated to use up to four litres of fuel per hour, while running at comparatively cool temperatures. These cool temperatures result in incomplete fuel combustion and greater emissions of harmful pollutants such as PM. The emissions during idling are, in fact, much greater than if the same quantity of fuel is used on the highway, under load.

Idling also allows carbon and PM to build up in your engine, which can result in increased vehicle maintenance costs. Studies suggest that an engine idling for one hour is equivalent to two hours of driving.

Think carefully before letting your vehicle idle. You will be doing your vehicle and our health and environment a big favour.



Ontario’s *Drive Clean*



Drive Clean’s heavy-duty vehicle program

New emissions standards for heavy-duty diesel trucks and buses

The need for tighter standards

If you own, operate or manage large diesel trucks and buses in Ontario, your vehicles will be meeting the strictest emissions test standards in North America.

If you are in the trucking and bus industries, you know that well-maintained vehicles help protect our health and our environment through reduced emissions of harmful pollutants such as particulate matter.

You also know that a well-maintained vehicle can mean more money in your pocket by reducing fuel usage and lowering maintenance costs. But there are heavy-duty vehicles (HDVs) that continue to be serious polluters and these are the ones targeted by Ontario’s *Drive Clean* program.

Drive Clean recognizes that many diesel HDV owners and operators are doing an excellent job of keeping their vehicles in good shape. And improved diesel engine and fuels technologies are cutting emissions even further every year.



If your heavy-duty diesel vehicle has very low emissions, you can benefit from a new, voluntary *Drive Clean* emissions standard. This voluntary standard is stricter than the standards for simply passing an emissions test. If you meet or surpass it, your vehicle will be exempt from its next emissions test.

Particulate matter in our air

Diesel emissions standards are based on opacity readings, which indicate the particulate matter (PM) in the exhaust of diesel HDVs. Opacity measures the amount of visible light that is blocked by exhaust smoke during a snap acceleration test.

PM, a major component of smog, is damaging our health and environment. It is emitted by diesel vehicles largely as a result of unburned fuel. Diesel HDVs contribute over 50 per cent of the PM from transportation sources, of which 85 to 90 per cent is microscopic PM2.5. These microscopic particles are readily absorbed by human respiratory systems.

PM is linked to asthma and respiratory and cardiovascular illnesses. Children and the elderly are among those most susceptible to its effects. In addition, incomplete fuel combustion also generates environmentally damaging greenhouse gases.

The new standards

Since the program began in 1999, *Drive Clean* has applied opacity standards in line with other jurisdictions in North America: 40% for 1991 and newer model years, and 55 per cent for 1990 and earlier models.

The new standards are:

April 1, 2004: 35 per cent for 1991 and newer models, and 45 per cent for 1990 and older models; and,

April 1, 2005: 30 per cent for 1991 and newer model years, and 40 per cent for 1990 and older model years.

These new emissions standards are similar to developments in the light-duty vehicle (LDV)

program, where standards are stricter as of January 1, 2003 and January 1, 2005.

School bus standards

To help protect children from harmful diesel emissions, large diesel school buses must meet the more stringent of the two standards in place for other diesel HDVs each year, no matter the age of the school buses. As of April 1, 2004 large diesel school buses must meet the 35 per cent opacity level and, on April 1, 2005, the 30 per cent opacity level.



Heavy-Duty Diesel Opacity Standards			
	Until March 31, 2004	April 1, 2004	April 1, 2005
1990 and older models	55%	45%	40%
1991 and newer models	40%	35%	30%
School buses	Same as other HDVs	35% (all)	30% (all)

Qualifying for a test exemption

A new, voluntary test standard of 20 per cent opacity has been established to encourage good vehicle maintenance by giving diesel HDV operators the opportunity to have their vehicles tested every two years instead of annually. Diesel HDVs that have an opacity reading of 20 per cent or less can earn an exemption from the next year’s emissions test. This effectively reduces the test requirement to once every two years from annually, as long as the vehicles continue to meet or surpass the 20 per cent opacity standard.

If a diesel HDV achieves or surpasses the 20 per cent opacity standard, the vehicle is emitting less PM, which benefits our health and our environment. At the same time, we will see fewer smoking diesel HDVs on the road, since emissions are less visible at, or below, 20 per cent opacity.



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For more information on Ontario’s *Drive Clean*, call: 1-888-758-2999 or visit www.driveclean.com

